

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Lisa Goldman
Acting City Manager

Date: February 15, 2011

Re: Accept \$397,216 from the US Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program for the Replacement of a Fire Rescue Vehicle Using the Alameda County Fire Department's Competitive Bid Award, Appropriate \$99,304 from the General Fund to Meet the Matching Funds Requirement of the Grant, and Authorize Purchase

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Department is responsible for the Managed Vehicle and Equipment (fleet) Replacement Program. On May 2, 2006, the City Council adopted Resolution 13951 establishing guiding principles for the management of the City's fleet vehicles and equipment. The replacement program is based on the City's fleet replacement criteria, which consider the useful life of vehicles and equipment in terms of age, mileage (hours), and usage. Vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement are also reviewed and analyzed for safety history and operating performance to determine if it is appropriate to replace a vehicle or piece of equipment at a later date. In addition, vehicles and equipment are reviewed to determine if the minimum use guidelines have been met. As required by the Managed Vehicle Replacement Program and in consultation with the Public Works Department's Senior Fleet Mechanic, the Alameda Fire Department has determined that a critical need exists for the replacement of its 1981 fire rescue vehicle.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) provide financial assistance directly to fire departments to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The authority for AFG is derived from the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. Congress appropriated \$390 million for the FY 2010 AFG. The primary goal of the AFG is to help fire departments meet their firefighting and emergency response needs.

Over the past eight years, the Alameda Fire Department has been awarded more than \$3.2 million in grants from the Department of Homeland Security. In 2006, the Department used its \$275,391 AFG funding to purchase rescue equipment. The equipment is designed to enable firefighters to respond to structure collapse incidents and to conduct safe, effective, and specialized search and rescue operations following a major earthquake or terrorist act. The AFG funding enhanced the Department's abilities

with respect to structural collapse incidents by providing the training, tools, and resources necessary to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and emergency response personnel during light, operational-level, technical rescue incidents. However, the current rescue vehicle used to transport this equipment is a converted delivery van obtained from the Alameda Naval Air Station in 1998.

DISCUSSION

The \$397,216 in AFG funding will replace a 29-year old converted rescue response vehicle. The mission of the rescue response vehicle is to:

- Transport equipment and personnel necessary to support fire ground operations and the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC);
- Transport hazardous material decontamination equipment; and
- Support technical rescues including: confined space, surface water, high and low angle, trench, and the extrication of victims from entrapment.

The new rescue vehicle will be equipped with a cascade system for self contained breathing apparatus filling and prolonged air operations. The vehicle will be stocked with medical equipment and tools to support Multi-Casualty Incidents (MCIs), including incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive weapons. It will be equipped with hydraulic extrication tools including rescue air bags and a thermal imaging camera. The new vehicle will be placed in service with existing technical rescue, hazardous materials decontamination, and RIC equipment while permanently retiring the old converted rescue vehicle.

The Alameda Municipal Code Subsection 2-61-7 Joint Purchases with Public Agencies provides authority for the City to use another government agency's competitive bidding process to purchase materials, supplies, equipment, vehicles, and apparatus, "provided the purchase is the result of competitive bidding or proposal and is made in compliance with the competitive bid or proposal requirements of any participating agency or organization in a manner that is consistent with law." In order to assure a cost-effective purchase, the Alameda Fire Department proposes to "piggy-back" onto Alameda County's existing competitive bid purchase of a fire rescue vehicle from Pierce Manufacturing.

GREEN FLEET POLICY

City staff has been working with a consultant to assist with securing grants and converting the City's fleet to alternative fuel vehicles. Even with the conversion of the City's fleet to alternative fuel vehicles, however, the City will need to retain some gas-powered vehicles. Given the specialized features of emergency fire apparatus, staff

was unable to identify hybrid or electric vehicles on the market that adequately meet the specifications and vehicle demands. The vehicle that the Fire Department proposes to purchase meets the latest 2011 vehicle emissions standards for fire apparatus.

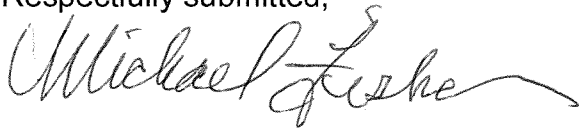
FINANCIAL IMPACT

The AFG is an 80/20 matching grant program, whereby the Department of Homeland Security awards 80% of the total requested amount (\$397,216), and the City must provide a match of 20% (\$99,304) of the grant award. The grant will be accounted for in the Fire Grants Fund (Fund 220, Program 22004), and the 20% match will need to be appropriated as an operating transfer from the General Fund (001-85220) to the Fire Grant Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept \$397,216 from the US Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program for the replacement of a fire rescue vehicle using the Alameda County Fire Department's competitive bid award, appropriate \$99,304 from the General Fund to meet the matching funds requirement of the grant, and authorize purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fisher", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Fisher
Interim Fire Chief

Approved as to funds and account,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Marsh", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Marsh
Controller